

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in which claims 6-20 are newly added herein. In the Office Action, claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 6,672,240 to Aubé et al. (hereinafter “Aubé”), and claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aubé.

Claims 2 and 5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were otherwise considered allowable if re-written in independent form.

Original claim 2 is re-written in independent form as new claim 10, so that new claim 10 is allowable as specified in the Office Action.

Original claim 5 is re-written in independent form as new claim 11, so that new claim 11 is allowable as specified in the Office Action. New claim 12 is added and depends on new claim 11. Claim 11 is allowable as depending upon an allowable base claim 11.

Claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These claims inadvertently depended on non-existent claim 42 and were intended instead to depend on claim 1 as properly assumed in the Office Action. Claims 2-5 are amended to properly depend on claim 1 rather than claim 42. Claim 3 was further rejected as referring to an “accessory light” rather than as the “accessory lamp” introduced in original claim 1. Claim 3 is amended to replace “light” with “lamp” to properly correspond with claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the §112, second paragraph, rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the §102(e) rejection of claim 1 based on Aubé. Aubé shows a fixture 158 including a docking light 12 and a courtesy lamp 11 integrated with the docking light 12 (Aubé, FIG. 2 and col. 6, lines 5-24). The light 11 shown in Aubé is referred to as a “courtesy” light used “for illuminating the deck and other forward areas of the deck boat (1)” (col. 6, lines 13-14), which is not the same as an accessory lamp as used in Applicant’s disclosure. In particular, the first paragraph on page 16, lines 2-20 of the Application as filed illuminates the term “accessory” as used therein:

It is noted that the term “navigation light” generally refers to certain lights used for navigation purposes, such as a “masthead light” or a “stern light” among other types of navigation lights. It is noted, however, that the terms “masthead” and “stern” are typically used to refer to specific navigation lights that conform to all of the strict requirements specified in the Navigation Rules. The masthead lights and stern lights described herein, however, do not necessarily conform to the strict requirements of the Navigation Rules although they may be used to perform masthead or stern light functions. *Thus, these lights may be considered “accessory lights” that may perform masthead or stern light functions as defined in the current Navigation Rules. It is contemplated that the accessory lights described herein are improvements of the existing navigation lights and may in fact conform to masthead or stern lights of new Navigation Rules if the Rules are modified to take advantage of the improvements described herein* (emphasis added).

Aubé clearly does not show an accessory lamp mounted to a docking light fixture as provided in Applicant’s claims.

Nonetheless, claim 1 is amended to specify that the claimed accessory lamp “emits light outwardly from the watercraft and is masked to control the horizontal and vertical beam sectors of emitted light from illuminating the watercraft causing glare to an occupant of the watercraft.” It is noted that this included language is in accord with the language of the issued claims of US. Pat. No. 6,637,915 of which the present application

is a divisional application thereof (see independent claim 1). Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Aubé and requests withdrawal of this rejection. Claims 2-5 are allowable as being dependent upon allowable claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the §103(a) rejection of claims 3 and 4 based on Aubé is also overcome for similar reasons and should be withdrawn.

New claims 6 - 9 are added and depend on amended claim 1, so that claims 6 - 9 are allowable as depending upon an allowable base claim. Applicant further notes that the application as filed illustrates various locations and colors of accessory or navigation lamps or lights positioned around a watercraft, so that these claims do not add new matter.

New independent claim 13 is added which is similar to original claim 1 except including a “navigation light provided on the docking light fixture.” Applicant respectfully submits that although the nomenclature of navigation lights by the Coast Guard is somewhat ambiguous and confusing, such nomenclature provides distinct characteristics of navigation lights different from other types of lights used for purposes other than navigation, such as, for example, convenience lights, courtesy lights, work lights, etc. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that new claim 13 is allowable over Aubé since Aubé does not show a navigation light provided on a docking light fixture. New claims 14 - 18 are also added and are allowable as depending upon allowable base claim 13.

New claim 19 is added and is similar to claim 1 except directed to the watercraft itself. Claim 19 is allowable for similar reasons as claim 1.

New claim 20 is added and is similar to claim 13 except directed to the watercraft itself. Claim 20 is allowable for similar reasons as claim 13.

The present amendment raises the independent claim count to a total of six (6). Applicant has enclosed herewith the additional fee in the amount of \$129.00 for three extra independent claims for a small entity.

The Field of the Invention and the Abstract of the Disclosure of the Specification have been amended to more accurately reflect the amended and new claims. Applicant respectfully requests approval of these amendments.

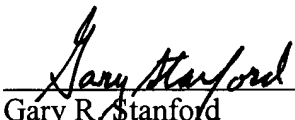
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that for the reasons recited above and for various other reasons, the objections and rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn. Applicant respectfully submits therefore that the present application is in a condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Should this response be considered inadequate or non-responsive for any reason, or should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions that would expedite the prosecution of the present case to allowance, Applicants' undersigned representative earnestly requests a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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